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THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

IN modern times much has been accomplished in the field of preventive medicine. The ravages formerly committed by small-pox, cholera, etc., are now matters of history. The spread of such diseases is now fortunately checked and held within narrow bounds. Before we can hope to curtail the spread of any particular disease we must first know its nature, and especially its mode of extension. We may reasonably expect to limit the extension of those diseases of which we can definitely say their spread is favoured by such and such conditions and retarded by others. We know that small-pox, for example, is communicated by one individual to another, and that this communication is more liable to occur if the individuals exposed to the disease are placed in unsanitary surroundings; we know that an individual whose vitality is impaired by lack of proper air, food or clothing, is more likely to contract such a disease if exposed to it than is one whose general health is good, and whose hygienic surroundings are in accordance with the requirements of nature. Knowing that a certain disease is communicable from one individual to another, and that that communication is facilitated by unsanitary conditions, we may hope to prevent the spread of such a disease by isolating those already affected, and by placing them and others who may be exposed to the infection in good sanitary surroundings. In all civilized countries the truth of this is recognized and laws have been enacted requiring the isolation of patients affected with such diseases as cholera, small-pox, scarlet fever, etc. Of late years the number of diseases which are recognized as infectious has been increased, as by the aid of bacteriological investigations the true nature of